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## WASHINGTON, D. C.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1854.

## CONGRESS.

The Senate went into Executive session at an early hour to-day, on the Gadsden treaty, it is presumed.

In the House, the bill to establish a semi-monthly mail route between New Orleans and San Francisco, was laid on the table with emphasis; and the Homestead and Land Graduation bill was taken up in Committee of the Whole.

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Suppose your Party of Freedom triumphant at the polls, a majority in Congress, and ascendant in the Federal Executive, what would you do? inquires the slaveholder. Do much that your Party of Slavery has not done, and undo much that it has done.

We would repeal the act of 1801-2, by which the slave code of Maryland was continued in this District, and pass a law here for the protection of personal freedom.

We would repeal that part of the act of 1808, by which regulations were established for the transportation of slaves coastwise, and pass an act declaratory of the impossibility of the existence of Slavery under the American flag on the high seas.

We would repeal the seizure and sale of slaves under United States process.

We would repeal the act of 1850, and that of 1793, in relation to fugitives from service or labor.

We would enact a law, declaring that there shall be no Slavery or involuntary servitude in any Territory of the Union, now existing, or that may hereafter be acquired, or anywhere within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

In Federal Legislation, touching the subject of Slavery, our action then would be the exact reverse of yours. You, by acts of Congress, clearly unconstitutional, have established and supported Slavery within Federal Jurisdiction, and, by preventing the exercise of constitutional authority by Congress, allowed the evil to gain foothold in Federal Territory. We would repeal those acts, and also exert that authority so as to exclude Slavery from every foot of soil under the exclusive control of the Federal Government.

In regard to the organization of Congress, the construction of the Administration, and the distribution of Patronage, we would act for Liberty, as you have done for Slavery; by assigning to the consistent friends of Freedom and Free Labor, the majorities in all important committees in both Houses of Congress; by securing them the control of the Cabinet and the various Executive Departments; by excluding Pro-Slavery men, as you have excluded Anti-Slavery men, from offices of trust and influence; and by giving to applicants for office in slaveholding States, favorably disposed to Emancipation, the preference over those committed to the support of perpetual Slavery, just as you have preferred for office in the free States, the opponents, to the friends, of Emancipation.

The results of this changing the position and policy of the Federal Government would be of incalculable importance.

The free States would be absolved of all political responsibility for Slavery, and relieved from that corrupt spirit of compromise and that servility among their politicians which now debases their politics, and to a fearful extent have lowered the tone of their religious sentiment. The Federal Government would no longer be an instrument of the Slave Interest, its power prostituted, its treasury plundered, its patronage abused, for the extension of the area and influence of Slavery, but made to minister to the protection and extension of Free Institutions.

Political Parties would no longer be organized on the basis of compromise with Slavery, nor would the disguise or renunciation of Anti-Slavery sentiments be necessary, as now, to political preferment. Servility in the free States, Pro-Slavery fanaticism in the slave States, would be as obnoxious as Free-Soilism in the former and Emancipationism in the latter are now. The Slave Interest, dispossessed of the control of the Federal Government, stripped of its political consequence and patronage, with no power to punish or reward, would cease to be feared at the North and South, and it would not be long before the citizens of the slave States, two-thirds of whom have no interest in the support of Slavery, would begin to manifest their opposition to it. An Emancipation Party in the South would be one of the results of breaking down the ascendancy of the Slave Power in the Federal Government. Its tyranny over Southern sentiment would be gradually weakened, and the impossibility of any further expansion of Slave territory would favor the gradual development of an opposition to the perpetuation of the Slave system, which would finally assume the form of legislation for its extinction.

Let us not, then, conceal from ourselves the utter antagonism between the party of Slavery and the party of Freedom, the precisely opposite policies they propose, the precisely opposite results to be expected, according as one or the other may obtain the final control of the Federal Government. If the party of Slavery shall continue in the ascendancy, as it is now, and go on from victory to victory, but one alternative will be open to the free States, *Namization of Slavery in all Territories of the Union, with absolute subservience of all those States to its interests, or Secession.* On the other hand, if the party of Freedom obtain and maintain ascendancy in the Federal Government, the law of Liberty will be established throughout all Territory of the Union, and Slavery confined to the States in which it now exists, until its final overthrow by an Anti-Slavery party in these States, the natural result of the subordination of the Slave Interest, and the limitation of Slave territory. And this, on Secession, will be the alternative submitted to the slave States.

What say the American People to this? Are they prepared for this systematic, direct struggle with the Slave Interest, or not? The nucleus of this Party of Freedom exists, under the name of the Independent Democratic organization. We, who sustain this Party, have surveyed the whole ground, weighed the consequences, and are prepared to meet them. No other way can we discern, by which the Slave Power can be overthrown, and the Federal Government and the free States absolved from responsibility for Slavery extension and perpetuation. The Democratic and Whig Parties hold out no hope. Their fixed policy is compromise and concession. The "compromises of the Constitution," as they are called, instead of being assented to by them, with a clear view of their tendencies to undermine the popular attachment to human rights, and paralyze the public conscience on the evil of Slavery, and with a determination to counteract these tendencies by a rigorous construction of them, and by the liberal exercise of all constitutional powers in favor of Liberty, are habitually glorified by them, and appealed to as precedents for still more injurious compromises. Their policy on the subject of Slavery is a perpetual reproduction and aggravation of these compromises.

The general spirit and provisions of the Constitution, which are all in favor of Freedom, are subordinated by them to the exceptional provisions in relation to Slavery, and these, not those, govern and shape their whole action. Their Northern sections struggled hard against what are called the Compromises of 1850, but when, by Northern treachery, they were overpowered, they submitted, ceased to complain, and at last through National Conventions, and National Candidates for the Presidency, ratified them, as finalities. Now, they are renegeing the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, the Northern Whigs, *unitedly*, because out of power—the Northern Democrats, partially, because they are in power, and the measure is sustained by their Administration. But let the Bill pass, and you will see those old parties, at first protesting, then submitting, at last ratifying the measure, as a final settlement.

Thus always will it be. Each new aggression of Slavery will be met by resistance, determined on the part of the old party out of power, debilitated on the part of the old party in power, but if compromise be secured, both will submit, acquiesce, ratify. The Northern Whigs now are force against the repeal of the Missouri Compromise—but examine their proceedings; look neither to the past nor to the future, but simply to the present issue. If the Slave Power be baffled, what then? Not a word as to the ground it has gained, and Freedom lost—not a word as to party aggressions. The Past is ratified, the Future, unguarded. No attempt to dispossess Slavery of the vantage ground it holds, is dreamed of. Indemnity for the past, security for the future, is not an article in the creed of either Whigs or Democrats, as they call themselves. Unorganized, unsystematic, unintelligent resistance, on single issues, raised by Slavery, is their policy, not adopted, but forced upon them. Our policy, the policy of the Independent Democratic organization, is, deliberate, systematic, thoroughly organized opposition to all usurpations of Slavery, accomplished, in progress, or in conception. Their policy is negative and partial; ours, positive and complete. Essentially, there is no difference between the Whig and Democratic Parties—Compromise lies at the foundation of both—Compromise disqualifies both for effective opposition to the Slave Power. Compromise we repudiate and spurn, and within the limits of the Federal Jurisdiction ask no favors from Slavery, and will give it none.

## LITERARY NOTICES.

THE AMERICAN ALMANAC, and Repository of Useful Knowledge. 1854. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. For sale by Frank Taylor, Penn. avenue, Washington, D. C.

We have had this Almanac on our table for some months, and have been using it to good purpose. It is full of statistics, valuable to the politician and man of business.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, Massachusetts. January, 1854.

We are indebted to the politeness of Charles L. Flint, Secretary of the Board, for a copy of this interesting, well-digested report on agriculture in Massachusetts. The communication on New England Climate, by J. C. Grey, we have read with more than ordinary interest.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF MEDICAL SCIENCES. By Isaac Hays, M. D. Philadelphia: Blauphard & Lea.

No one who takes the trouble to examine the contents of this able Quarterly, can fail to obtain a pretty good idea of the progress of medicine and surgery.

MONIE HERMANN; or, The Night and its Morning. By Thurlow W. Brown. Auburn and Buffalo: Miller, Otis, & Mulligan.

This volume is one of the products of the Temperance agitation. It is a "Tale for the Times," its narrative being drawn from real life, and its object, to arouse hatred against the great wrong of Intemperance. We hope it may have a large circulation.

HOME SCENES AND HOME SOUNDS. By H. Marion Stephens. Boston: Feltledge & Co.

Spirited and fascinating sketches, these, in prose and poetry. Some of them appeared in the literary journals, but they will not be the less welcome in this neat, well-printed volume. The graceful attempt of the author, in her preface, to disarm criticism, was unnecessary.

LEWIS; or, The Banded Twig. By Cousin Cicely. Auburn, N. Y.: Alden, Beardsley, & Co.

A sad story, but too much truth in it. It is written to show how a false system of indulgence may enter passion and temper, where they exist, as to lead to the most fatal consequences.

A young man in Paris lately retired to his chamber, drunk; but, falling at the door, his cravat caught on the knob, and he died of strangulation.

Two men at Weymouth, (Mass.) got drunk the other day, while quarrying, and were accordingly killed by the accidental explosion of their powder.

Hon. Truman Smith has formally resigned his place in the United States Senate, and has apprised the citizens of Connecticut of the fact, in a brief, but very feeling and appropriate address. His resignation is to take effect on the 24th of May.

A letter from Colonel Fremont to Col. Benton is published. It is dated at Little Salt Lake settlement, February 9th. He had found the Central Route entirely practicable in a season of great severity. The only death in his party was that of Mr. Fuller, of Missouri, though many were frost-bitten by exposure. He expects to be in Washington soon.

The 3,000 clergy not only declare their allegiance to be the will of the Almighty, but, as an inevitable consequence, that all other clergy who differ from them violate his will. How is this? By what special prerogative are they his exclusive oracles?—*Washington Sentinel.*

The *Sentinel* is deeply exercised on this particular branch of the subject, and we begin to hope for the final salvation of its editors. They are amazed at finding that, if truth is truth, its opposite must be error! As soon as they obtain a clear perception of this, and get it well impressed upon their minds, who knows but they may fondly and devotedly embrace the truth? We make but little pretension to theological acumen; and yet we never doubted that slavery is in conflict with the precepts of Christ, and that, "as an inevitable consequence," they who support or acquiesce in it "violate his will." This is an easy, natural, and just conclusion, without any "special prerogative!"

THE REV. DR. CAHILL.—There is a report that this distinguished clergyman of the Roman Catholic Church is about soon to visit the United States. The following is a quotation from a lecture delivered by him recently in Liverpool, on the "Social condition of Ireland."

"The year 1760 is a most important period. George the Third came to the throne in perfect peace, and, having nothing to do, they were determined to tax the American people, from the sole of their foot to the pomatum of their wig. The American people remonstrated, and sent Washington to London to state their grievance. He waited on the Prime Minister several times in the outer court to gain a hearing, but he was treated so lightly that, at last, he said to the Minister: 'I intend going to America; but I get no conclusive answer; what shall I do?' The Minister laughed at him; and when Washington got into the street, with his hat off he vowed vengeance before God against England. [Rapturous cheering.] He returned home—fired the zeal of his countrymen—in battle after battle he was victorious over the English, and in 1783 he lifted the flag of American Independence. I intend going to America; but I get no conclusive answer; what shall I do? 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